Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 21 July 2015

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2015/30)*]

2015/22. Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its resolutions related to technical assistance in countering terrorism, and especially the most recent resolutions such as resolutions 68/178 of 18 December 2013 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, 68/187 of 18 December 2013 on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, 68/276 of 13 June 2014 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, 69/127 of 10 December 2014 on measures to eliminate international terrorism and 69/197 of 18 December 2014 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity,

Taking note of relevant Security Council resolutions related to technical assistance in countering terrorism, especially the most recent resolutions,[1]

Stressing again the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States through the provision of technical assistance, based on the needs and priorities identified by requesting States,

Emphasizing the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while fully respecting the fundamental principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

[1] Especially resolutions 2178 (2014) adopted on 24 September 2014, 2133 (2014) of 27 January 2014, 2195 (2014) of 19 December 2014 and 2199 (2015) of 12 February 2015.

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Recalling its resolution 68/187, in which, inter alia, it called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become a party to and implement international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice officials, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the elaboration of technical tools and publications, in consultation with Member States,

Reiterating all aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy[2] and the need for States to continue to implement the Strategy, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 68/276, in which the Assembly noted with appreciation the activities undertaken in the area of capacity-building by United Nations entities, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, inter alia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementing the Strategy, and encouraged the Task Force to ensure focused delivery of capacity-building assistance, including in the framework of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative,

Reiterating also that it is the primary responsibility of Member States to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, recognizing the need to enhance the coordinating and main role that the United Nations plays in facilitating coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and in providing assistance, especially in the area of capacity-building, as affirmed in pillar III of the Strategy, and encouraging other international, regional and subregional organizations to coordinate their activities in this regard with the United Nations,

Recalling that in its resolution 68/276 it expressed concern at the increasing flow of international recruits to terrorist organizations, including foreign terrorist fighters, and at the threat that that posed for all Member States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, and recalling also that it expressed concern at the increase, in some regions, in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, and noted that ransoms paid to terrorists were used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings,

Recalling also the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,[3]

Noting, in this regard, the need to continue to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related

[2] General Assembly resolution 60/288.

[3] Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/19, annex.

activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes,

Alarmed by the destruction of cultural heritage perpetrated recently by terrorist groups in some countries,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime within the entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in countering the financing of terrorism and in legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism, and recalling the importance of coordination among United Nations entities and of the work of the Task Force to promote accountability and transparency and avoid duplication in their work,

Affirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism complies with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Noting the work undertaken and the progress achieved in providing technical assistance for countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism within the framework of relevant and specialized regional and international bodies,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism,[4]

Noting the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts in preventing and countering terrorism in the crime prevention and criminal justice context, in particular with regard to the compilation of good practices in the area of assistance to and support for victims of terrorism, including the role of victims in the criminal justice framework, and reiterating that this work needs to be done in close coordination with Member States,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the existing international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in close coordination with the relevant entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States for the ratification and legislative incorporation of those international legal instruments;

2. *Urges* Member States to continue to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in order to prevent and counter terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, to effectively implement relevant international instruments and United Nations resolutions that address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, to counter the financing of terrorism, including through hostage-taking and kidnapping for ransom, to enter, when appropriate, into bilateral, regional and multilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant

[4] E/CN.15/2015/4.

personnel in executing international cooperation activities, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States to that end, including by continuing and enhancing its assistance related to international legal cooperation pertaining to countering terrorism and fostering the development of strong and effective central authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems, in accordance with applicable international law, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whenever appropriate, to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to strengthen the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request and within its mandate, on effective measures, based on the rule of law, for criminal justice responses addressing the prevention of terrorism, in full conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice and law enforcement officials, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the elaboration of technical tools and publications, in consultation with Member States;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge in the area of countering and preventing terrorism and pertinent thematic areas of relevance to the mandate of the Office and to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States with regard to criminal justice responses to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as set out in the international legal instruments and as detailed in relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in collaboration with, when appropriate, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, through its capacity-building activities, with regard to enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures, as well as appropriate criminal justice responses, to prevent the financing, mobilization, travel, recruitment, organization and radicalization of foreign terrorist fighters, and to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice in compliance with obligations under international law and applicable domestic law;

8. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation in enhanced operational and timely sharing of information related to foreign terrorist fighters, as well as to cooperate and to address, as appropriate, including through the effective exchange of information and the sharing of experiences

and good practices, and to counter any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its relevant mandates, to support the efforts of Member States in this regard, upon request;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to support, as appropriate, the development of improved cooperation between Member States in relation to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups by providing, upon request, technical assistance to develop their capability to prevent future incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorists and prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments and political concessions;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to develop its specialized legal knowledge in close consultation with Member States to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States so as to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, to support those Member States in effectively criminalizing, investigating and prosecuting such acts in accordance with applicable international law on due process and fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to encourage the use of the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism;

11. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to support requesting Member States in the implementation of capacity-building programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the destruction of cultural heritage by terrorists;

12. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to strengthen its cooperation with international organizations and relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, in the delivery of technical assistance, whenever appropriate;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to give high priority to the implementation of an integrated approach through the promotion of its regional and thematic programmes, including by assisting States, as requested;

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing joint initiatives developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through financial contributions, and invites Member States to consider making additional sustainable voluntary financial contributions, as well as providing in-kind support, especially in view of the need for enhanced and effective delivery of technical assistance to assist Member States with the

implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;[2]

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient resources to carry out activities within its mandate, to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2015/30)*]

2015/23. Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the significance of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(*a*) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(*b*) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(*c*) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(*d*) To promote a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approach in addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and in strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators,

(*e*) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society organizations and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(*f*) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

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the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Recalling its resolution 2013/41 of 25 July 2013, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons",

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development,

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons,

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating human trafficking,

Recognizing that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established consistent with the Global Plan of Action, aims at providing victims of trafficking in persons with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and welcoming contributions made to the Trust Fund by States and other relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Taking note of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192 of 18 December 2013, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session,

Taking note also of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014,

Recalling the continued role of relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional mechanisms and initiatives to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons,

1. *Reiterates* the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and which provided for the first time an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of its victims and the prosecution of its perpetrators, and in this regard calls upon Member States that have not yet done so to consider as a matter of priority ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was established

to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

3. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[3] and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

4. *Welcomes* the first observation of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons in 2014, and invites all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to continue to actively observe the World Day every year;

5. *Also welcomes* the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, looks forward to the next such report, to be produced by the Office in 2016, and encourages Member States to provide to the Office evidence-based data on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to integrate the Global Plan of Action into its programmes and activities and to continue to provide, at the national and regional levels, technical assistance to countries, upon their request, aimed at strengthening their ability to ensure full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, to continue to increase the activities of the Group related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and other members of the Group, to continue to contribute in line with their existing mandates to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and in this regard invites the Office and other members of the Group to continue to elaborate, in cooperation with Member States, a list of concrete measures planned until 2017 aimed at implementing the Global Plan of Action and to present it in an appropriate manner to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the Trust Fund;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

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[3] General Assembly resolution 64/293.

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing an update on the status of the contributions to and expenditures of the Trust Fund.

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2015/24. Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/189 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue strengthening the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, and strongly encouraged Member States to share such data and information with the Office,

Recalling also its resolution 2013/37 of 25 July 2013 on improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development, in which it affirmed its support of the activities in the road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels[1] and approved the plan to finalize by 2015 an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes as a methodological tool for harmonization and for the improvement of international and regional comparability,

Reaffirming the commitment to endeavour to strengthen the development and use of tools and methods aimed at increasing the availability and quality of statistical information and analytical studies on crime and criminal justice at the international level, in order to better measure and evaluate the impact of responses to crime and to enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention and criminal justice programmes at the national, regional and international levels, as set forth in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,[2]

[1] See E/CN.3/2013/11.

[2] Resolution 2015/19, annex.

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Recognizing the importance and cross-cutting nature of information and statistics in developing and supporting public policies at the national, regional and global levels, as well as in measuring the implementation of relevant international instruments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Emphasizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission should continue their complementary and joint efforts in the field of statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Underscoring the importance of technical assistance and of building the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse, report and disseminate accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice,

1. *Acknowledges* the road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels[1] as a valuable conceptual and operational framework to improve statistics on crime and criminal justice, and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and all relevant partners to continue activities for its implementation, subject to availability of resources;

2. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session, held from 3 to 6 March 2015, at which the Commission endorsed the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes as an international statistical standard for the collection of data from both administrative records and statistical surveys and as an analytical tool to elicit specific information on factors driving crime, confirms the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the custodian of the International Classification, and endorses the implementation plan,[3] including the creation of a technical advisory group to provide the Office with substantive advice and support in the maintenance of the International Classification;

3. *Recognizes* the comprehensive and inclusive preparatory work conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Member States and experts to develop the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and test its feasibility;

4. *Invites* Member States to develop national plans for the gradual adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and the strengthening of national statistical systems on criminal justice in order to contribute to the effectiveness of their national legislation and policies, taking into account relevant international instruments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, by encouraging a productive dialogue among national authorities responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice, including national statistical offices, so as to foster the implementation of the International Classification by all national authorities concerned;

5. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to improve crime statistics at the global level, through, inter alia, the exchange of experiences and good practices and the establishment of statistical centres in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and in that context reaffirms the positive contribution of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on

[3] See E/CN.3/2015/7.

Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, established jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States to continue to support the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes in accordance with the outlined implementation plan and subject to availability of resources, with particular reference to information campaigns, methodological support and technical assistance provided to requesting Member States;

7. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the technical advisory group to be established and in consultation with Member States, and within its existing mandates, to support the maintenance of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes through, inter alia, the review and evaluation of the implementation plan, and requests the Office to continue to provide relevant information to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to the Statistical Commission for their consideration in this regard;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, technical and methodological tools to assist countries in producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice, and to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on crime and criminal justice;

9. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2015/28)*]

2015/25. Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which it decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and 69/201 of 18 December 2014, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem",

Recalling further its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016",

1. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/8 of 17 March 2015;[2]

2. *Decides* that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem shall be convened for three days, from 19 to 21 April 2016, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled to be held in March 2016;

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] Ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 8* (E/2015/28), chap. I, sect. C.

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3. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the special session shall be as follows:

(*a*) The special session shall consist of a general debate and interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel to the plenary;

(*b*) The opening of the special session shall include statements by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director-General of the World Health Organization;

(*c*) The general debate shall include statements by the regional groups, Member States, observer States and observers, relevant international organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(*d*) Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the special session in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practice of the General Assembly;

(*e*) In accordance with the rules of procedure and practice developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, the President of the Assembly, in consultation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will take into consideration inputs from other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, shall draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders that may participate in the special session, with due regard to geographical balance;

(*f*) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, shall address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements, including chairing arrangements, speakers and participation, for the following round tables, while considering the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] in line with Assembly resolutions 67/193 and 69/201:

Round table 1: Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"):

(i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;

(ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

Round table 2: Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"):

(i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where

appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

(ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

(i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[3] and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

Round table 4: Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

Round table 5: Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy;

(g) A summary of the salient points raised during the round tables will be prepared by the Chairs of those round tables, to be presented at the plenary;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken for the session, through the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session, which was established by the Commission in its decision 57/2 of 4 December 2014;[4]

[3] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8A* (E/2014/28/Add.1), chap. I, sect. B.

5. *Also requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, and decides that the document, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session, should, inter alia, address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction and address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and encourages organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders to continue to fully contribute to the process by actively participating in the preparations by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice;

7. *Encourages* all Member States, observer States and observers to consider being represented at the special session at the highest possible level;

8. *Also encourages* all Member States, observer States and observers to consider the possible participation of youth representatives at the special session;

9. *Reaffirms* its decision, taken in resolution 67/193, to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing regular budget resources;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

53rd plenary meeting
21 July 2015

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 September 2015

2015 session
Agenda item 18 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2015/31)*]

2015/26. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2014/27 of 16 July 2014 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/204 of 19 December 2014 on information and communications technologies for development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014 on the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Digital development",[3]

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

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[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

[2] A/70/63-E/2015/10.

[3] E/CN.16/2015/2.

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Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1] emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit and, to that end, requested the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding in Geneva, from 9 to 13 June 2014, of the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, and its two outcome

documents, namely, a statement on the implementation of World Summit outcomes, and a vision for the World Summit beyond 2015;

8. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

9. *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, in particular the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies within their reach and make use of them by the end of 2016, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-agriculture, mobile transactions, m-government, e-government, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

10. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

11. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

12. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

13. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

14. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

15. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

16. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development entitled *The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

17. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

18. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

19. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity, the gender gap, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services are essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

21. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

22. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[4]

Enhanced cooperation

23. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

24. *Also recognizes* that the process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation; that relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and being responsive to innovation; and that the same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports;

25. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement that mandate, and requested the working group to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit;

26. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Commission to ensure that the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation had balanced representation between Governments, from the five regional groups of the Commission, and invitees from all other stakeholders, namely, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and intergovernmental and international organizations, drawn equally from developing and developed countries;

27. *Notes* that the Working Group held four meetings between May 2013 and May 2014, at which it examined the mandate of enhanced cooperation by issuing a questionnaire and seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders for the purpose of developing draft recommendations, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/195;

28. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission,[5] and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and members and other stakeholders that submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

29. *Notes* that consensus emerged on certain issues while a wide divergence of opinions persisted in a number of other issues that prevented the Working Group from making recommendations on how to fully implement enhanced cooperation as

[4] See A/60/687.

[5] E/CN.16/2014/CRP.3.

contained in the Tunis Agenda, as stipulated in the mandate given to the Working Group by the General Assembly in resolution 67/195;

30. *Also notes* the work initiated by the Working Group to review the identified international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, list where there are existing international mechanisms addressing these issues, identify the status of mechanisms, if any, and whether they are addressing the issues, and attempt to identify gaps in order to ascertain what type of recommendations may be required;

31. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 2014/27, the Council recommended that that work may be further continued by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to the submission of findings to the Commission at its intersessional meeting for further discussion and their integration into the 10-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session;

Internet Governance Forum

32. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

33. *Also recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

34. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 69/204, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission,[6] particularly on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

35. *Notes* the holding of the ninth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Turkey, in Istanbul from 2 to 5 September 2014, under the main theme "Connecting continents for enhanced multi-stakeholder Internet governance";

36. *Welcomes* the holding of the tenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil and scheduled to take place in João Pessoa from 10 to 13 November 2015, and notes that, in the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations from the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum have been taken into consideration;

37. *Also welcomes* the offer of Mexico to host the eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2016, subject to the decision by the General Assembly on the renewal of the mandate of the Forum;

[6] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

The road ahead

38. *Notes* the substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the eighteenth session of the Commission, held from 4 to 8 May 2015, and the concluded work of the Commission of collecting input from all facilitators and stakeholders as part of the preparations for its 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and recalls its requests to the Commission to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

39. *Also notes* the holding of the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union, as an extended version of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, in Geneva, from 10 to 13 June 2014;

40. *Further notes* the holding of a 10-year review event of the World Summit, entitled "Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development", coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Paris, from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the final statement of the event;

41. *Notes* the holding of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Policy Forum on international Internet-related public policy matters, in Geneva, from 14 to 16 May 2013, and its output opinions;

42. *Also notes* the holding of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union and hosted by the Government of Costa Rica in San José, from 9 to 11 September 2013, and its declaration;

43. *Urges* United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[7]

44. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide among and within countries;

45. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

[7] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

46. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

47. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[8]

48. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(*a*) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(*b*) Also notes the holding, in Tbilisi, from 24 to 26 November 2014, of the twelfth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium;

(*c*) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, so as to be able to respond satisfactorily to surveys such as the World Summit targets survey, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(*d*) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(*e*) Calls upon international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

49. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

50. *Recalls* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to make an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015, and paragraph 106, according to which the World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

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[8] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

51. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda;

52. *Further recalls* paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013, in which the Assembly decided to finalize the modalities of the overall review as early as possible, and invited the President of the Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;

53. *Recommends* that, consistent with the World Summit process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process be launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

54. *Notes* the role of the Commission, set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

55. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

56. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

57. *Recalls* paragraph 57 of Council resolution 2014/27, in which the Council requested the Commission to invite further inputs from Member States and all facilitators and stakeholders and to organize, during its eighteenth session, in 2015, a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

58. *Recalls further* paragraph 48 of Council resolution 2013/9, in which the Council requested the Commission to submit, after its eighteenth session, the results of its 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

59. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission at its eighteenth session,[9] including a summary of the substantive discussion on the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit alongside a link to the interventions made in that regard, and decides to forward it to the preparatory process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 11* (E/2015/31).

60. *Also takes note* of the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development entitled "Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review", which was the basis for the substantive discussion, and decides to submit it also to the preparatory process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly as an input for its deliberations;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

62. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divide, taking into account considerations of gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

63. *Also emphasizes* the importance of information and communications technologies for development, and considers that it should be reflected as appropriate in the post-2015 development agenda.

54th plenary meeting
22 July 2015

Economic and Social Council

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2015 session
Agenda item 18 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2015/31)*]

2015/27. Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 66/129 of 19 December 2011 and 66/211 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011 addressing,

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

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respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of a number of Millennium Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation as an enabler of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Taking note of the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals[2] and the implications of the same for the global science, technology and innovation community,

Taking note also of the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet",[3] which identifies technology, science and innovation as means to implement the sustainable development agenda,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Digital development",

Noting the need for new approaches that embed science, technology and innovation policies and capacity-building as crucial components of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between sectoral ministries, science, technology and innovation and information and communications technology agencies and a range of regulatory bodies,

Recognizing that technology foresight exercises could help policymakers and stakeholders in the future implementation of the post-2015 development agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in mind the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing also that a well-developed digital ecosystem[4] is a primary requirement for effective digital development and the facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing further the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

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[2] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[3] A/69/700.

[4] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(*a*) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To undertake systemic research, including foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(iv) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term and addressing such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and vocational training;

(v) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues and building consensus on future policies;

(vi) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(vii) To conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, to identify weaknesses of the system and make effective policy interventions to strengthen its weaker components, while recognizing the interlinkages between its diverse components;

(viii) To mobilize resources through multiple channels to strengthen the national innovation system for science, technology and innovation;

(ix) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(x) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, that are inclusive and that encourage the development of local content and attract and support private investment, innovation and entrepreneurship;

(xi) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability and encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste;

(xii) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;

(xiii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(*b*) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering as enablers in the future post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning and providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies;

(iii) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships between various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, with the objectives of improving international cooperation in emerging technology foresight tools and methodologies, sharing experiences and best practices and organizing training programmes and collaborative projects such as on the future of work, science, technology and innovation skills and the future employability of science, technology and innovation professionals;

(iv) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(v) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (*a*) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (*b*) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(vi) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(vii) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development;

(viii) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities;

(ix) To play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(x) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Millennium Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, taking into account that 2015 is a year of transition to the post-2015 development agenda;

(*c*) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(iv) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

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22 July 2015

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015

[*on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2015/44)*]

2015/28. Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fourteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2012/28 of 27 July 2012, 2013/23 of 24 July 2013, 2014/38 of 18 November 2014 and other related resolutions on public administration and development, in which it affirmed that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration and that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996, in which the Assembly recognized that effectiveness of government requires an efficient and effective public administration in all countries that is responsive to the needs of the people, promotes social justice, ensures universal access to quality services and productive assets and creates an enabling environment for sustainable people-centred development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/228 of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions, in which the Assembly emphasized that efficient, accountable and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[1] and recognizing that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development,

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which the Assembly decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in its report[2] shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly,

Recalling further the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing,[3] which highlights, inter alia, the importance of ensuring transparency and accountability of financing at the national, regional and international levels,

Referring to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[4] which entered into force on 14 December 2005,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 60/252 of 27 March 2006 and 69/204 of 19 December 2014, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to more effectively harness the potential of information and communications technology to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Council on issues related to governance and public administration, and the relevance of the work of the Committee to the acceleration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing also the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development Management to countries on public sector leadership, institutional and human resources capacity development, electronic and mobile government and citizen engagement in development management,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fourteenth session;[5]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals, in accordance with the theme of the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council, on redefining relationships and responsibilities in support of participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, including through e-solutions, on strengthening innovation, prioritization, informed decision-making and integration of policy development processes, and on promoting accountable institutions, ethical leadership and integrity;

3. *Also notes* the critical significance of citizens' confidence in effective and capable institutions and the means of implementation of the sustainable development goals as a core enabler of building trust in government, and encourages Member States to make use of the transition period to address gaps in governance and implementation arrangements that contribute to such confidence;

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[2] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[3] A/69/315.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 24* (E/2015/44).

4. *Underlines* that attaining the future sustainable development goals and related targets, in accordance with national and local contexts and priorities, will require clarifying roles and responsibilities of public sector entities, civil society and private sector actors in policy design and implementation, taking into account pre-existing power structures;

5. *Stresses* that the sustainable development goals are different from the Millennium Development Goals and need more citizen ownership, and encourages Governments to foster the participation of citizens in their implementation at all levels, in a trustful manner, in order to mobilize efforts and resources for achieving sustainable development;

6. *Reaffirms* that access to public service by citizens should be a central concern of public sector transformation in pursuit of the sustainable development goals, and encourages Member States to create pathways to citizen engagement with a view to designing policies and strategies in an inclusive manner, inter alia, by strengthening regulatory processes of public consultation with all stakeholders at all levels;

7. *Stresses* the need for capacity-building, within specific country contexts, to promote collaborative relationships among public and private sectors and civil society, monitor progress and strengthen accountability frameworks for achievement of the sustainable development goals;

8. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen e-government and the use of mobile technology, open data and evidence-based decision-making with a view to promoting effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels;

9. *Stresses* that to ensure support for the sustainable development goals across Governments and among the general public, there is a need for articulation of universalized public values and solidarity, buttressing of cross-governmental political will and incentives for cooperation among all stakeholders;

10. *Acknowledges* that more informed decisions and better prioritization occur when citizens and non-State actors are engaged throughout the policy cycle, recognizing that universities and the private sector are important actors in public sector innovation, and encourages public authorities at all levels to engage universities and the private sector in research and experimentation in the development of new capabilities for policy integration;

11. *Recognizes* that policy integration, involving effective policy design and implementation, stakeholder engagement and coordination across government, calls for transformative leadership, creativity, critical thinking and analytical skills, supported by an enabling environment comprising, inter alia, lead agencies tasked with reducing fragmentation through a process of programme review, and behaviours that promote sharing of data, information, knowledge, ideas and resources;

12. *Underscores* that effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels depend on a culture of ethics and integrity in the public sector, and encourages educational institutions, including schools and institutes of public administration, to promote professionalism and ethics among future public servants;

13. *Recognizes* that national oversight institutions have an essential role to play in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, inter alia, by promoting transparency and monitoring the disbursement and proper utilization of public resources at all levels;

14. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to strengtnen public financial management by modernizing accounting standards and introducing more advanced systems of accounting;

15. *Notes* that promoting integrity and transparency and ending impunity are essential to the prevention of corruption by public officials, and encourages Member States to strengthen collaboration with civil society, the private sector and the media, as appropriate, in exposing and addressing illicit practices;

16. *Requests* the Committee, at its fifteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the governance and institutional aspects of implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results, in accordance with the theme of the 2016 session of the Council;

17. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Committee to enhance its interaction and coordination with the Council and other subsidiary bodies of the Council with a view to addressing cross-cutting areas through the established working methods of the Council;

18. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue:

(*a*) To address gaps in research, policy analysis, formulation and integration as an aspect of governance and public administration and continue to implement initiatives such as the United Nations E-Government Survey, the Global e-Government Forum, the United Nations Public Service Awards and Forum, the World Public Sector Report and updated guidance on civic engagement, inter alia, with a view to supporting monitoring and implementation of the future post-2015 development agenda;

(*b*) To increase the scope and depth of capacity-development activities, as appropriate, with the aim of better assisting countries, including post-conflict countries and countries engaged in democratic institution-building, according to their specific contexts and needs, in building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels in pursuit of the sustainable development goals;

(*c*) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance, including through information and communications technology and e-government, so as to advance sustainable development, through the transfer of knowledge on effective governance at the global, regional, national and local levels;

(*d*) To assist in the implementation and review of the governance-related aspects of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[6] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;[7]

(*e*) To facilitate, promote and coordinate the implementation of new and innovative activities and initiatives on effective governance and public administration in order to test, validate and scale up innovative methodologies and practices to advance sustainable development;

[6] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[7] See A/60/687.

(*f*) To promote collaboration and coherence of its activities in governance and public administration with the activities of the relevant departments of the Secretariat and United Nations agencies, as appropriate.

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